

Punctuation in the Bertha Language

1. Full Stop (.)

Example: Ami Imam gidi gali mili. - RIGHT!!
Ami Imam gidi gali mili - WRONG!!
(My uncle has a black dog.)

2. Question Mark (?)

Example: Ñgo shileya? – RIGHT!!
Ñgo shileya – WRONG!!
(Are you tired?)

Ñgo fed'i yaguthá? – RIGHT!!
Ñgo fed'i yaguthá – WRONG!!
(Do you like fish?)

3. Exclamation Mark (!)

Example: Álí k'aloqi, "Bik'a agorha!" – RIGHT!!
Álí k'aloqi, "Bik'a agorha" – WRONG!!
(Ali said, "Don't cheat!")

4. Capitalization

Used at the beginning of a sentence.

Example: Ñgo shileya? – RIGHT!!
ñgo shileya? – WRONG!!
(Are you tired?)

Used for proper names:

Examples: Assosa – RIGHT!!
assosa – WRONG!!

Mohammed – RIGHT!!
mohammed – WRONG!!

mamá – RIGHT!!
Mamá – WRONG!!

gali – RIGHT!!
Gali – WRONG!!

5. Comma (,)

Examples: Gaga galime, Álí. – RIGHT!!
Gaga galime Álí. – WRONG!!
(Ali, keep the dog away.)

Álí k'aloqi, "Bik'a agorha!" – RIGHT!!
Álí k'aloqi "Bik'a agorha!" – WRONG!!
(Ali said, "Don't cheat!")

6. Hyphen (-)

Used for compound of noun and adjective or verb

Examples: maaba + ágarraña = maabá-ágarraña - RIGHT!!
(person) (teaching) (teaching person → teacher)
[noun] [verb]
maaba ágarraña – WRONG!!

aagu + k'aas'í = aagú-k'aas'í – RIGHT!!
(pumpkin) (small) (small pumpkin)
[noun] [adjective]
aagu k'aas'í – WRONG!!

No hyphen used for compounds of 2 nouns

Examples: shúli + nera = shúlñera – RIGHT!!
(house) (grass) (grass house)

shúli-nera – WRONG!!

gaagú + fiilí = gaagúfiilí – RIGHT!!
(bamboo tree) (root) (bamboo root)

gaagú-fiilí – WRONG!!

7. Quotation Marks (" ")

Example: Imam d'ok'otho mama, "Tha kammu shibiloño assahana?" – RIGHT!!
Imam d'ok'otho mama tha kammu shibiloño assahana? – WRONG!!
Imam d'ok'otho mama, <<"Tha kammu shibiloño assahana?">>- WRONG!!
(Imam asked my aunt, "How much did the bowl cost?")

8. Word Breaks

A word is not broken at the end of a line.

Gafále mín thálé le thá bulú mbá Ímám u Áli u mamá mmaané. Thá gafayú thá bulú afanfé uuthá ful. Ná maadálá Áli gundi thá afanfé gídi ful thá **gafayú**. Ná éndálá Áli ná múfáné afanfé. Ná daané galíeqí, ná fía galiqi. Mín thá gáfú Áli adé thayú thá áné ílálá tha babáné Neqémale. Mamá fulá mu thá áné tháma aagu thá múyú. Ná thámané-alú thá duudu lémmin mené. **Badéén** áné líá na-alú thá aagu ilé, indaané Álíé thá áné damá Imámé tha gafue.

- RIGHT!!

Gafále mín thálé le thá bulú mbá Ímám u Áli u mamá mmaané. Thá gafayú thá bulú afanfé uuthá ful. Ná maadálá Áli gundi thá afanfé gídi ful thá **ga** **fayú**. Ná éndálá Áli ná múfáné afanfé. Ná daané galíeqí, ná fía galiqi. Mín thá gáfú Áli adé thayú thá áné ílálá tha babáné Neqémale. Mamá fulá mu thá áné tháma aagu thá múyú. Ná thámané-alú thá duudu lémmin mené. **Ba** **déén** áné líá na-alú thá aagu ilé, indaané Álíé thá áné damá Imámé tha gafue.

- WRONG!!

9. Affixes (prefixes and suffixes)

Affixes are directly attached to a word, they are **not** separated by a hyphen.

Examples with Suffixes:

-e
Imame**e** – RIGHT!
(to Imam)

-a
Shogoa**a**? – RIGHT!!
(Is it like this?)

-qi
ahatha**qi** – RIGHT!!
(he stands)

Imam**-e** – WRONG!

Shogo**-a?** – WRONG!!

ahatha**-qi** - WRONG!!

-lo
niñelo**lo** – RIGHT!!
(that woman)

-ne
niñene**ne** – RIGHT!!
(this is a woman)

-la
k'alagala**la** – RIGHT!!
(said to him)

nine**-lo** – WRONG!!

nine**-ne** – WRONG!!

k'alaga**-la** – WRONG!!

agur**lo** – RIGHT!!
(that king)

fiala**la** – RIGHT!!
(he was hit)

agur**-lo** – WRONG!!

fia**-la** – WRONG!!

-qa
gadiqa**qa** – RIGHT!!
(your child)

-le
giñle**le** – RIGHT!!
(this thing)

gadi**-qa** – WRONG!!

giñ**-le** – WRONG!!

Example of Prefix:

a-

aAli – RIGHT!!

(the Ali)

a-Ali – WRONG!!

Punctuation Practice.

Circle the errors in the following passage and write the correct punctuation in the spaces provided below.

Ashuni u At'eyib

Mamanañ ahathaqi mba s'ulla tha At'eyib ane saafara u ñine gidi asaada k'ed'e. At'eyib ade saafare ñine d'uk'unuñ Shamba d'afarane ane huluare tha mamanañ-le maale shiñ adoqi min thoñor aña mañ.

A mare huluare mare geeru u ane baro d'ok'otha ñine: "nañ s'ulla ñgo" Ane k'ala mabalowe baro sha ñine s'ulla tha At'eyib. Ane d'ok'otha shiñ shamba s'ul lane, ane k'ala ñine shiñ, sha ñine s'ulla tha Áshuni. u At'eyib wala ñine fagada giñ k'alaga ñine mabalo ashan tha s'ulla Áshuni. Ashuni kane d'ok'otha Ateyib: Waane adiñonne? Ane p'ula ñine kane aña adigane. A Áshuni shiñ k'ala ñineqi: <<Le ali añalo adiño ñineñ shiñ adili.>>

Áshuni baro ahathe ane k'alne At'eyibeqi: "Ma ñgo dam asaad ñgo has'ulo ansa ma thiñña mbaqa Mimba k'odine baro anthiña baro shiñ mbañk'o." At'eyib baro adaqi ma ñineale bidi asaada k'ed'e alu lammiñ k'odaqi.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Answer Key

Ashuni u At'eyib

Mamanañ ahathaqi mba s'ulla tha At'eyib ane saafara u ñine gidi asaada k'ed'e. At'eyib ade saafare ñine d'uk'unuñ. Shamba d'afarane ane huluare tha mamanañle maale shiñ adoqi min thoñor aña mañ.

A mare huluare mare geeru u ane baro d'ok'otha ñine: "Nañ s'ulla ñgo?" Ane k'ala mabalowe baro sha ñine s'ulla tha At'eyib. Ane d'ok'otha shiñ shamba s'ullane, ane k'ala ñine shiñ, sha ñine s'ulla tha Áshuni. U At'eyib wala ñine fagada giñ k'alaga ñine mabalo ashan tha s'ulla Áshuni. Ashuni kane d'ok'otha Ateyib: "Waane adiñonne?" Ane p'ula ñine kane aña adigane. A Áshuni shiñ k'ala ñineqi: "Le ali añalo adiño ñineñ shiñ adili."

Áshuni baro ahathe ane k'alne At'eyibeqi: "Ma ñgo dam asaad ñgo has'ulo ansa ma thiñña mbaqa mimba k'odine baro anthiña baro shiñ mbañk'o." At'eyib baro adaqi ma ñineale bidi asaada k'ed'e alu lammiñ k'odaqi.

1. Full stop is missing at the end of the first sentence.
2. 'mamanañle' does not have a hyphen.
3. 'Nañ' must be capitalized.
4. Question mark is missing from "Nañ s'ulla ñgo?"
5. Comma is missing after shiñ.
6. 'sullane' should not be broken from one line to another.
7. 'U' should be capitalized (beginning of a sentence).
8. Quotation marks are missing from "Waane adiñonne?"
9. Quotation marks are " " and not << >>.
10. 'mimba' is not capitalized.